



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 24, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 2008-2009 William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program Grants

William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs (Even Start), authorized through Title I, Part B, Subpart 3 of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, is designed to improve the educational opportunities of low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, parenting education and parent/child interaction into a unified family literacy program. It is anticipated that the Michigan Department of Education will receive approximately \$2.185 million for 2008-2009, \$2.05 million of which must be awarded for new and continuation grants. Projects must be designed to build on community resources and must have a primary collaboration between a school district, intermediate school district or public school academy and a non-profit community-based organization, public agency, institution of higher education, or other non-profit organization.

In accordance with the legislation, grants may be awarded for a total of four years, provided the recipient is making sufficient progress toward meeting its program objectives and state indicators. Continuation grants may not be denied without notice to the recipient and an opportunity for a hearing. Recipients may apply for a second competitive grant at the end of four years and for an additional competitive grant at the end of each four-year period. Recipients must demonstrate their commitment to the project by providing an increasing local match.

If the nine current projects eligible for continuation in 2008-2009 meet the criteria to be continued, there will be sufficient funds for one new project.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the 2008-2009 William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program Grants as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 24, 2008.

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Criteria for 2008-2009 William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program Grants**

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

**PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

The purpose of Even Start is to improve the educational opportunities of low-income, low literacy families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, parenting education and parent/child interaction into a unified family literacy program. These activities individually, specifically the delivery of high quality early childhood education to children at risk, have proven to positively impact the long-term outcomes for these children. Children involved in high quality early education are more likely to finish high school, have a job, have good school attendance and less likely to become teen parents, be identified with disabilities, be incarcerated, or be on welfare roles. Even Start ultimately aims to deliver a program that breaks the intergenerational cycle of poverty and illiteracy, and improves family relationships with schools. This is closely related to the State Board of Education's 2007-2008 goal. By setting of this goal, the State Board of Education recognizes the importance of a unified continuum of support that ensures student success. Further, the delivery of Even Start Family Literacy embraces the vision and Principle of Universal Education adopted by the State Board of Education by designing services that are community specific, culturally relevant and attend to both adult and child learning.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

☒ Competitive    ☐ Formula    ☒ New    ☒ Continuation

Statute requires Even Start programming be designed to "promote the academic achievement of children and adults" and "assist children and adults from low-income families to achieve to challenging state content standards and challenging state student achievement standards." The ultimate anticipated outcome is that the children whose families have been enrolled in Even Start will have at least an even start in their school careers, with the hope that they might experience substantial school success. Twelve partnerships are operating programs during the 2007-2008 program year.

**CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved: November 20, 2003.

☒ Defined in Legislation    ☒ Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder    ☐ Proposed by Staff

Legislation requires awards to be granted to those applicants who:

- are most likely to be successful in meeting the purpose of Even Start.
- are most likely to be effective in implementing the required program elements.
- propose programming to an area that has a high need for services.
- will provide services for at least a three-year-age range within the ages of birth through seven.

- demonstrate coordination with relevant service providers.
  - propose cost-effective budgets.
  - demonstrate the ability to provide the required non-federal share.
  - are representative of urban and rural regions of the State.
- show the greatest promise for providing models that may be adopted by other family literacy projects and other local education agencies.

In addition, priority must be given to viable projects that will target the population most in need as defined in statute and are located in areas designated as empowerment zones or enterprise communities.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

An eligible recipient of Even Start funds is a local education agency partnering with a community-based organization, public agency, institution of higher education or other nonprofit organization, or such an organization partnering with a local education agency. It is required that the project be designed to build upon and enhance community resources.

### **TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

The amount that the Michigan Department of Education will receive for 2008-2009 is tentatively estimated at approximately \$2,184,000. Statute allows the Department to retain up to 6 percent for administration, training, and technical assistance. In 2007-2008, Michigan received \$2.865 million, of which \$2.524 million was available for grants. With carryover funds, 12 grants were funded; two in an initial year of a four-year cycle and ten in continuation years.

### **LEGISLATION**

Even Start is authorized by Title I, Part B, Subpart 3 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, reauthorized under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, P.L. 107-110. Specific selection criteria are referenced in Section 1238.

### **OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

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